

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the amendments above and the following comments. Claims 1-11 were pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 have been amended and claim 11 has been canceled. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-10 are pending.

Rejection of claims 1-11 under 35 USC § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claim 1-11 as being anticipated by Nedved et al. Applicants assert that Nedved does not teach or suggest all the elements of the claimed invention for the reasons listed below.

In Nedved, the complex is dissociated in the first separation step to which the liquid comprising the complex is subjected (the restricted access medium, see e.g. abstract and pages 4229 and 4230). Whereas, in the claimed invention, the complex permeates through the restricted access support used in the first separation step and dissociation takes place thereafter. (See amended claim 1) In addition, in the claimed invention, the first separation step is used which allows separation of the (undissociated) complex which comprises target analytes with the affinity molecule from other molecules which do not bind to the affinity molecule (see amended claim 1). Nedved fails to suggest or teach a first separation step which allows separation of the undissociated complex comprising target analytes with the affinity molecule from the other

molecules which do not bind to the affinity molecule. Thus, Nedved fails to teach or suggest every element of the claimed invention. Claims 2-10 either directly or indirectly depend on claim 1. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

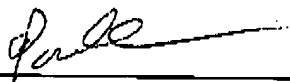
CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Assistant Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,
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